Remarks

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to substantially incorporate the subject matter of claims 2, 11 and 14, namely reciting that the support web is formed by filaments having an average diameter from 0.05 to 2 mm and that these filaments are individually coated with adhesive and the absorbent particles are bonded to the adhesive coated filaments through the entire depth of the support web. Claim 1 also now states that these large filaments form large pores (1 to 10 mm). The microfibers in Braun are limited to an average fiber with an average fiber diameter of from 1 to 25 micrometers (0.025 mm) and further states that there is no adhesive used in maintaining the particles in his web rather that the filaments either mechanically entrap the particles or with very fine or ultrafine particles Van der Walls forces can be relied upon. Braun specifically teaches away from the use of adhesive and incorporating adhesive into a meltblown web, and use of an adhesive as claimed is nowhere taught or suggested in the art. Meltblown fibrous webs such as described in Braun are created in a very high speed turbulent process where extremely very fine fibers are extruded out of a die having multiple orifices. The die face is subjected to extremely high (supersonic) speed air streams on either face of the die tip resulting in the massive amounts of turbulence. This turbulence results in the fibers oscillating and entangling into a coherent web. Incorporating pressure-sensitive adhesives onto this turbulent process would be nearly impossible and is nowhere taught or suggested in Braun as to how this would be accomplished or why it would be desirable. The description at col. 3 in Braun describes that it is known to coat the surface of a generic "web" with adhesive, or binders and then applied absorbent to the surface of these webs. Braun's invention is based on a method of uniformly introducing absorbent particles into the structure of the meltblown web. In Braun, this is done by incorporating the particles into a gap created when forming two meltblown webs side by side. The adhesive coating discussed in Braun would be done after formation of the microfiber web. Braun does not teach that it would be impossible to adhesive coat microfiber and then incorporate particles into the structure of the web following formation of a meltblown web. This would be practically impossible due to the very fine nature of the meltblown microfibers and the small pores in such a web.

Further, independent claim 21 has been added which corresponds to prior dependent claim 13 which recites that the support web is a coiled support web formed of substantially continuous coiled filaments. Neither Braun nor Stokes teach this type of web nor does the prior Office Action assert that this type of web is known from either Braun or Stokes alone or in combination.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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